

34710. QUERCUS SUBER L.**Cork oak.**

From North Augusta, S. C. Presented by Dr. W. E. Mealing at the request of Mr. Peter Bisset, of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction. Received December 20, 1912.

"Collected from trees presumably sent out by the Division of Forestry about 1891."

34711. DIOSPYROS KAKI L. f.**Persimmon.**

From Canton, China. Presented by Mr. G. Weidman Groff, Canton Christian College. Received December 26, 1912.

"*Taai hung t'sz.* Large red persimmon. This is decidedly the largest and sweetest persimmon I have ever seen. It does not have any of the astringent taste so common to the persimmon. It is very highly cultivated; rarely do you find seed. The skin is thin and of a deep-red color. Fruit that I have had on my own table of this variety measures 8 inches around at its widest circumference." (*Groff.*)

34712. STRYCHNOS PUNGENS Solereder.

From South Africa. Presented by Prof. J. Burt Davy, government agrostologist and botanist, Union of South Africa, Department of Agriculture, Pretoria. Received December 23, 1912.

"A shrub which grows wild on the hills around Pretoria." (*Davy.*)

Distribution.—The Mozambique district and Lower Guinea and southward to the Kalahari region in southern Africa.

34713. DIOSPYROS KAKI L. f.**Persimmon.**

From Canton, China. Presented by Mr. G. Weidman Groff, Canton Christian College. Received December 27, 1912.

"*Kaai sam t'sz* (chicken-hearted persimmon). This is a rather inferior persimmon not commonly sold on the markets. The fruits are about the size and shape of a small egg and very difficult to ripen. A common method employed by the Chinese for ripening this fruit is to cover them over with the leaves from the bastard banyan tree for several days; of course we do not have frost here. This persimmon is used as the stock on which to graft the finer varieties." (*Groff.*)

34714. JATROPHA CURCAS L.**Physic nut.**

From Tampico, Mexico. Presented by Mr. Thomas H. Bevan, American vice consul in charge. Received December 23, 1912.

"A shrub about the size of a hazelnut bush, with a trunk from 6 inches to 1 foot in diameter. Its production is most prolific, the limbs often breaking off from the weight of the nuts. The nuts when first taken from the husk have a dark-brown luster, which becomes opaque after being exposed to the air for a few days. When first taken from the tree they have a taste not at all unlike that of the fresh chestnut. They are said to contain about 50 per cent of oil, which can be extracted and used for cooking, the same as cottonseed oil. These nuts can be seen growing in the yards of nearly all the Mexican houses in the outskirts of Tampico. The Mexicans prefer them to peanuts, maintaining that their flavor is much more delicate. Along the narrow strip of land between the Tuxpam Canal and the Gulf of Mexico, in the State of Vera Cruz, they grow wild by the millions, and apparently thrive better in their native state, growing in the sand dunes, than in the rich land in the valley of the Panuco." (*Bevan.*)

It should be remembered that, like many other euphorbiaceous seeds, the physic nuts have a purgative effect. They should therefore be tested with extreme care.